

ART. VI.—*Contributions from the National Herbarium of Victoria, No. 2.*<sup>1</sup>

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(With Plate VI.)

[Read 8th June, 1922.]

ARISTIDA BEHRIANA, F.V.M. "Brush Spear Grass." (Gramineae).

North Wangaratta, Mrs. A. M. C. Nason, November, 1920, and September to November, 1921.

An additional locality in Victoria for this native grass. It was previously recorded from the north-western district of Victoria. It is found also in New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia.

HELIPTERUM AUSTRALA (A. Gray), Ostenf in Danske Vidensk. Selsk. Biol. Medd. III., 2, 142 (1921), (*Dimorpholepis australis*, A. Gray (1852). (*Helipterum dimorpholepis*, Benth (1866), (Compositae).

Under the laws of botanical nomenclature Gray's original specific name has priority over that of Bentham's. Druce, in Heyward and Druce Advent. Fl. Tweedside P., 103 (1919), proposes *Helipterum pygmaeum*, Druce, (*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*, Turcz (1851), for this species, but we have already a *H. pygmaeum*, Benth. (*Pteropogon pygmaeus*, D.C. (1837). A. Gray's name must be used, and not Turczaninow's.

HELIPTERUM ROSEUM, Benth. var. *patens* (Ewart), Black (Compositae).

In the Trans. Roy. Soc., S.A., XLV., 21 (1921), under the above heading, J. M. Black has placed *H. Troedelii*, F.v.M. var. *patens*, Ewart, as a synonym. The reasons given evidently justify this course.

The following localities were quoted, i.e., Ooldea, Miss D. Bates, July, 1920, Mt. Lyndhurst, M. Kock, No. 1644 (1889) and Fraser Range, W.A., R. Helms (1891). The latter two were also given in the Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict., XXII., 15 (1909), where the varietal name was first published. The specimens from Mt. Lyndhurst were inserted in the variety *patens* in error. As their stems and branches are beset with appressed, lanuginous vestiture, as in *H. Troedelii*, whilst those of the variety *patens* are glabrous, the inflorescence of the Mt. Lyndhurst specimens are similar to those of *H. Troedelii*, and hence must be transferred from the variety, *H. roscum*, var. *patens*, to *H. Troedelii*. Mr. Black had not seen Kock's specimens from Mt. Lyndhurst, but only quoted from the Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict. Specimens have since been submitted to him, and he has confirmed our determination.

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1 No 1. in Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict. vol. XXXIV., p. 207, 1922.

MICROSERIS SCAPIGERA, Sch. Bip. in Pollichia XXII-XXIV., 310 (1866), (O. Hoffm. in Englers Pflanzenfamilien Teil IV. Abt. 5, p. 358 (1894), (*Scorzonera scapigera*, Forst. Prod. 534 (1786), (*Microseris Forsteri*, Hook, f Fl. Nov. Zel. 1, 151 (1853), (Compositae.)

According to Article 48 of the Vienna Botanical Congress (1905), Forster's original specific name has priority over that of Hooker's.

OXALIS PURPURATA, Jacq. "Purplish Wood-Sorrel" (Oxalidaceae).

Kyneton, Victoria, E. J. Semmens.

An additional locality in Victoria for this South African weed.

PAULOWNIA TOMENTOSA, Steud. (*Paulownia imperialis*, Siebold, and Zuc.), "Downy or Imperial Paulownia" (Scrophulariaceae).

A hardy, deciduous tree, height 20 to 30 ft. Branches horizontal tortuous; leaves opposite, entire or three-lobed, broad, soft, villous or pubescent, 6 to 18 inches long; flowers showy; corolla pale violet, with dark spots on the inside, 1½ to 2 inches long, with an elongated tube, and a five-lobed spreading limb; panicles terminal, with opposite, many-flowered branches. Capsule usually 1 in. long, ovoid acuminate, In a rocky gully on the edge of a stream at Wandiligong, Victoria, J. A. Fraser, March, 1922.

This deciduous tree is a native of Japan, and has not been previously recorded as growing wild in Victoria. It is sometimes grown in gardens as an ornamental tree. The seed has probably been carried down the stream by storm water and lodged in the gully, where it has propagated and developed into a tree. As it is only recorded from one locality, it may be classed as an exotic not yet sufficiently established to be considered naturalised.

PTEROSTYLIS ALATA (Lab.), Reichb, f, var. ROBUSTA (Ewart), comb. nov. (*P. praecox*, Lindl. var. *robusta*, Ewart, in Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict. XXVII., 234 (1916).

Herba 10-15 cm. alta; foliis et floribus majoribus quam typi—*P. alata*.

The general appearance and habit of the plant is the same as *P. alata*, but it is taller and stouter, the hood being 2-3 times as large.

SCORZONERA LACINIATA, L., "Torn Vipers Grass" (Compositae).

A perennial with long tapering roots; stems sub-erect, naked and one-headed at the apex; leaves deeply cut (pinnatisect); lobes linear, entire; flowers yellow, involucre scales slightly hooked at the apex.

Kerang district, E. J. Semmens, Sept., 1921.

It is a native of the Mediterranean regions and the Caucasus. It has not been previously recorded as growing wild in Victoria. It may be classed as an exotic not yet sufficiently established to be considered naturalised. Several species of *Scorzonera* are cultivated in gardens for the use of their long, tapering roots, which are cooked in a similar way to those of the "Salsify."

*SOLANUM ROSTRATUM*, Dunal. "Buffalo Burr," or Pincushion Nightshade" (Solanaceae).

Annual, herbaceous, woody when old; somewhat hoary or yellowish; 8 inches to 2 feet high; covered with copious stellate pubescence; the branches and stems covered with sharp, yellow prickles; leaves 1-3 times pinnatifid; lobes roundish or obtuse, with uneven margins, covered with soft pubescence, hairs star-shaped; flowers yellow; corolla gamopetalous, 1 in. in diameter, nearly regular, the sharp lobes of the corolla broadly ovate; stamens, 5 declined, anthers tapering upward, linear lanceolate, dissimilar, the lowest much larger and longer with incurved beak, hence the technical name *rostratum*; style much declined; fruit a berry, but enclosed by the close fitting and prickly calyx, fruit erect; seeds thick, irregular, round or somewhat longer than broad, wrinkled showing numerous small pits; seeds surrounded by a gelatinous substance.

Echuca, W. W. Cain, March, 1909; Benalla, W. B. Tiernan, Jan., 1913; Boweya, Vic., Feb., 1915; Neilborough district, Feb., 1921; also in New South Wales and South Australia.

In the "Weeds, Poison Plants and Naturalised Aliens of Victoria, the foregoing specimens are given under the name of *Solanum heterandrum*, Pursh., but on critical examination the material (in the Herbarium) from Australian localities proved to be identical with authentic specimens of *S. rostratum*, Dunal., and agreed with the description of that species. The North American material (in our Herbarium), apparently authentically labelled *S. heterandrum*, Pursh., also agreed with the specimens and description of *S. rostratum*, Dunal.; *S. heterandrum*, Pursh. is therefore apparently a synonym to *S. rostratum*, Dunal., and will have to be deleted from the list of the Introduced Flora of Victoria, and *S. rostratum* substituted for it.

*SOLANUM TRIFLORUM*, Nutt., "Spreading or Three-flowered Nightshade" (Solanaceae).

Annual, low spreading, slightly hairy or nearly glabrous, leaves acute, pinnatifid 7-9 lobed; peduncles, 5-3 flowered; corolla white; berries greenish or inclined to blackish, about the size of a small cherry; pedicles reflexed in fruit.

Black Mountains, 83 miles east of Bairnsdale, Vic., J. Clyde Rogers, Feb., 1922 (per G. Renner, Botanical Assistant, Department of Agriculture). Professor Chesnut says experiments on guinea pigs show that the berries are poisonous. The active constituent is no doubt solanin. The berry is not attractive to the eye, but has an agreeable odour and taste. This plant, a native of North-West America, has not been previously recorded as growing wild in Victoria, but it will probably be found to have a fairly wide range, and is likely to become a troublesome pest if allowed to spread. This plant has been brought under the provisions of the Thistle Act for the whole State.



*Teucrium racemosum*, R.Br.  
var. *polymorphum*, var. nov.